

**REMARKS**

Applicant recognizes with appreciation that Claim 5 has been allowed.

In this Amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 3, and added new Claims 6 and 7. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended to overcome the rejection and further specify the embodiments of the present invention. Claims 6 and 7 have been added to specify other embodiments of the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced by the amended claims. All claims are now present for examination and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendments and the following comments.

**OBJECTION TO TITLE:**

The title of the application has been objected as being not descriptive.

It is respectfully submitted that the title has been amended to "IMAGE PICKUP APPARATUS FOR HIGH-SPEED PHOTOGRAPHING AND METHOD OF CONTROLLING THE SAME," which is sufficiently descriptive. Therefore, withdrawal of the objection to the title of the application is respectfully requested.

**OBJECTION TO DRAWINGS:**

Figures 1A and 1B of the application have been objected as failed to include the legends of "Prior Art."

Applicant respectfully submits that the amended Figures 1A and 1B include legends reciting "Prior Art." Therefore, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings of the application is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1 – 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as allegedly being obvious and unpatentable over Inagaki et al. (US 6,084,634), hereinafter Inagaki.

Applicant traverses the rejection. It is respectfully submitted that in view of the presently claimed invention, the rejection has been overcome. More specifically, Claim 1 has been amended to include “a specific number of video data that form images of the object being output per field of the analog video signal.” Claim 3 has added the step of “outputting a specific number of video data that form images of the object per field of the analog video signal.” These amendments are supported by the specification (page 3, lines 10 – 13). In addition, the amended Claims 1 and 3 include an analog-to-digital converter to convert the “specific number of video data” into a digital video signal, and the step of converting the “specific number of video data,” respectively. Furthermore Claims 1 and 3 have been amended to specify a processor to accumulate the reference signals from a predetermined accumulation starting point “for one of the specific number of video data” and the step of accumulating the reference signals from a predetermined accumulation starting point “for one of the specific number of video data.” Lastly, the amended Claims 1 and 3 specify an adjustor to adjust a reference level “for each of the specific number of video data” and the step of adjusting a reference level “for each of the specific number of video data,” respectively.

It is respectfully submitted that Inagaki does not disclose or teach such high-speed photographing in which a specific number of video data that form images of an object are output per field of the analog video signal. In addition, Inagashi does not disclose or teaches how to obtain reference signals and adjust a reference level of each video data based on the reference signals as required in the amended claims. Nowhere in prior art has suggestion or incentive to modify Inagaki to achieve the invention as currently claimed. One of ordinary skilled in the art would not discern the present invention at the time of its invention. In addition, rejections to Claims 2 and 4 have been overcome by

their dependency on Claims 1 and 3, respectively. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is respectfully requested.

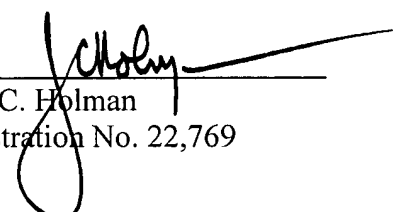
Finally, the newly added Claims 6 and 7 have supports in the specification, such as the embodiment of FIG. 4 in which the average signal is given for each of four pieces of video data for adjustments to the reference level of the succeeding video data, or the average signal given from the first video data for adjustments to the reference level of the second video data, the average signal given from the second video data for adjustments to the reference level of the third video data, and the average signal given from the third video data for adjustments to the reference level of the fourth video data, etc.

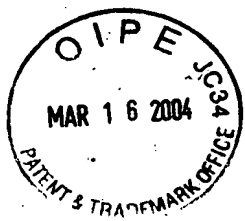
Having overcome all outstanding grounds of rejection, the application is now in condition for allowance, and prompt action toward that end is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appl. No. 09/644,859  
Amdt. Dated Mar. 16, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of Dec. 18, 2003  
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

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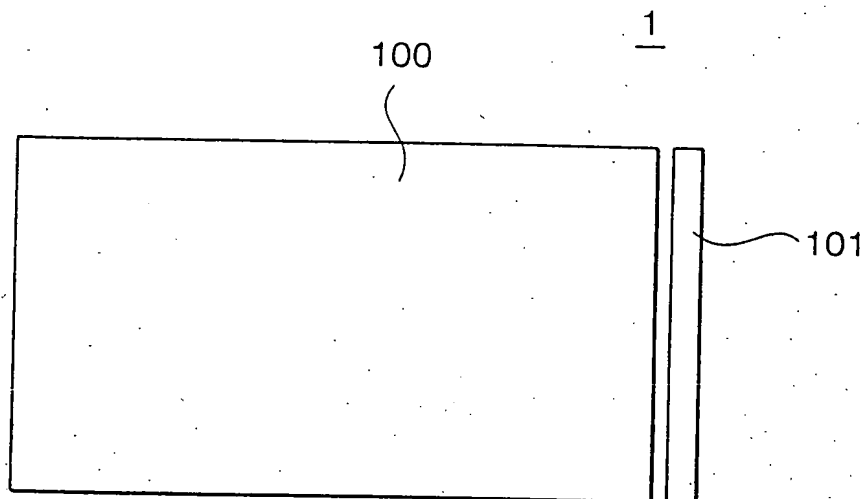


FIG. 1A PRIOR ART

Approved  
N. Va  
5/21/04

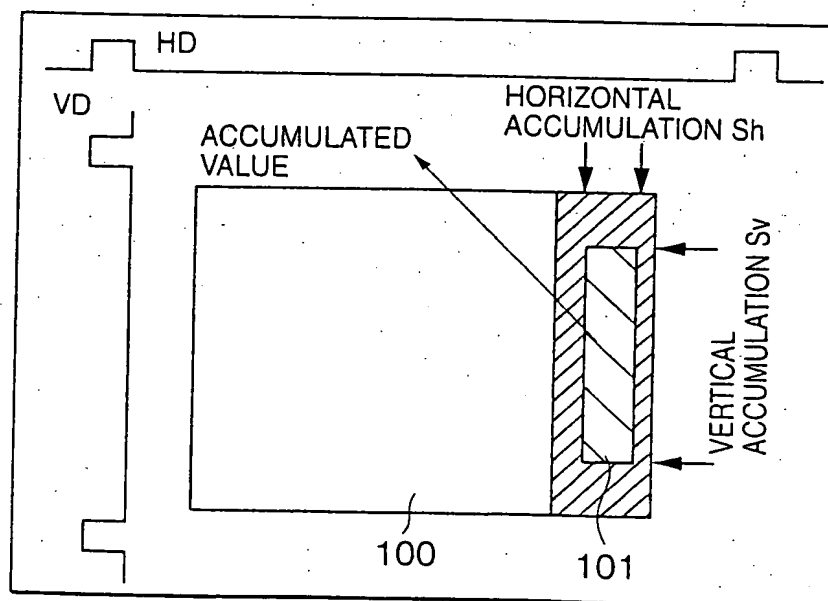


FIG. 1B PRIOR ART